

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, HK

SUBJECT: HONG KONG CONFERENCE OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS

FOR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR

1. SEPTEL ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE PLAN FOR CONFERENCE OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS SPONSORED BY HONG KONG PREVENTIVE SERVICES AND U.S. CUSTOMS. FRANK KEENAN CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG DISCUSSING PROPOSAL WITH HKPS.

1. WHILE PROPOSED CONFERENCE IS CONSISTENT WITH CCINC DESIRE TO INTERNATIONALIZE CONCERN ABOUT DRUG TRAFFICKING, BEFORE GIVING FINAL APPROVAL WE WOULD LIKE FOR KEENAN TO KEEP FOLLOWING CONCERNS IN MIND. POST MAY NEED TO WEIGH IN AND ASSIST KEENAN IN DISCUSSIONS IN ORDER SATISFY THESE CONCERNS.

3. BELIEVE THAT HKPS SPONSORSHIP OF CONFERENCE AND RESPON-

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SIBILITY FOR INVITATION, LOGISTICS, SPEAKERS, ETC., SHOULD

BE EMPHASIZED AND THAT HKPS SHOULD BE OUT IN FRONT AS HOST ORGANIZATION. U.S. CUSTOMS' ROLE WOULD ONLY BE SUPPORTIVE OF HKPS IN LIMITED AREAS SUCH AS PROVISION OF SPECIALIZED SPEAKERS OR DEMONSTRATION WITH SENSOR DOGS. SINCE THIS CONFERENCE WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD INTERNATIONALIZING DRUG PROBLEMS, DO NOT BELIEVE U.S. SHOULD TRY TO GET TOO FAR OUT FRONT IN SPONSORING CONFERENCE.

4. SINCE CCINC FUNDS MAY BE USED FINANCE U.S. CUSTOMS PARTICIPATION, IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE THIS CONFERENCE IS INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND NOT CUSTOMS MATTERS IN GENERAL. WHILE DISCUSSION OF NARCOTICS CONTROL OBVIOUSLY INVOLVES TOPICS SUCH AS CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT, ETC., EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON HOW THESE CONTRIBUTE TO NARCOTICS CONTROL.

5. REQUEST POST ASSESSMENT WHETHER PROPOSED CONFERENCE WILL HAVE HKPS OUT IN FRONT AS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION AND WHETHER PROPOSED AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AS OPPOSED TO GENERAL CUSTOMS RESPONSIBILITIES. SISCO

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